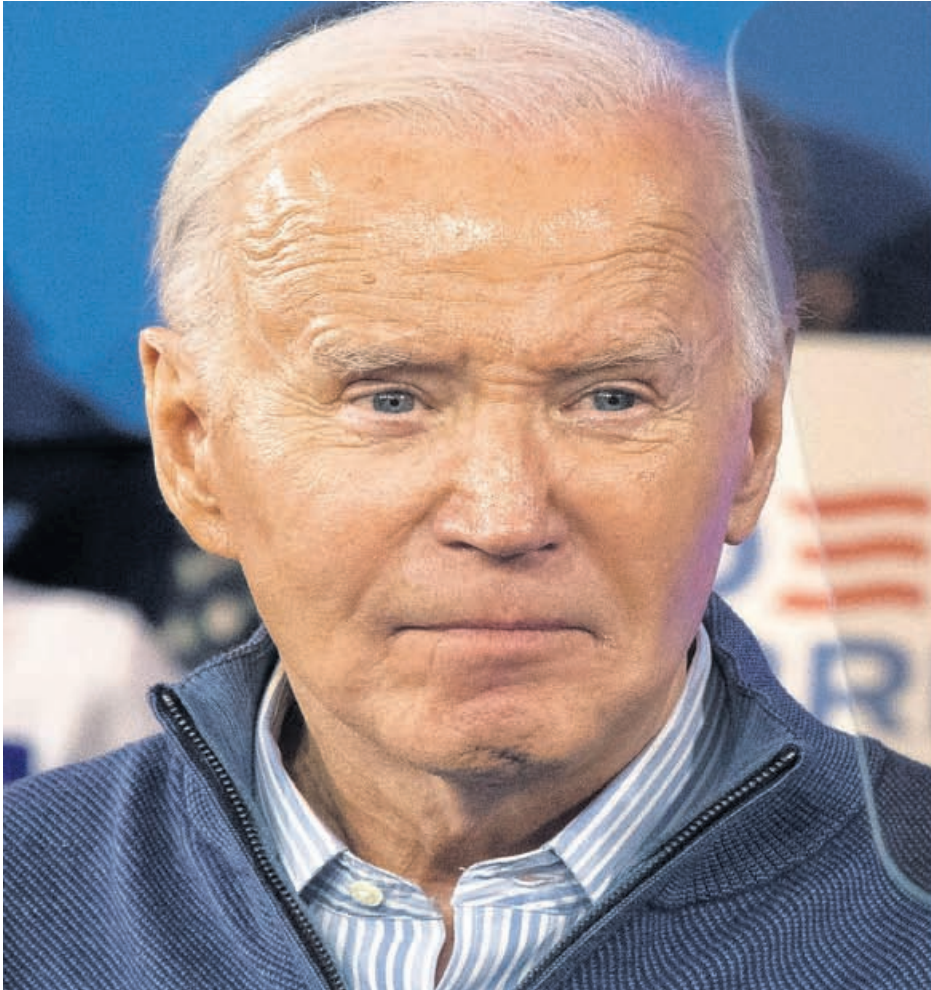




Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Biden tells Israel's Netanyahu future U.S. support for war depends on new steps to protect civilians



This combination photo shows President Joe Biden, left, on March 8, 2024, in Wallingford, Pa., and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, Israel, Oct. 28, 2023.

Associated Press
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Biden tells Israel's Netanyahu future U.S. support for war depends on new steps to protect civilians

From Front

By **AAMER MADHANI** and **ZEKE MILLER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden issued a stark warning to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday that future U.S. support for Israel's Gaza war depends on the swift implementation of new steps to protect civilians and aid workers.

Biden and Netanyahu's roughly 30-minute call just days after Israeli airstrikes killed seven food aid workers in Gaza added a new layer of complication to the leaders' increasingly strained relationship. Biden's message marks a sharp change in his administration's steadfast support for Israel's war efforts, with the U.S. leader for the first time threatening to rethink his backing if Israel doesn't change its tactics and allow much more humanitarian aid into Gaza.

The White House would not specify what could change about U.S. policy, but it could include altering military sales to Israel and America's diplomatic backup on the world stage. Administration officials said they expected the Israelis to make announcements on next steps within hours or days and that the U.S. would then assess whether the Israeli moves go far enough. Biden "made clear the need for Israel to announce and implement a series of specific, concrete, and measurable steps to address civilian harm, humanitarian suffering, and the safety of aid workers," the White House said in a statement following the leaders' call. "He made clear that U.S. policy with respect to Gaza will be determined by our assessment of Israel's immediate action on these steps." Biden also told Netanyahu that an "immediate cease-fire is essential" and urged Israel to reach such an accord "without delay," according to the White House, which described the conversation as "direct" and "honest."

There was no immediate reaction to the call from the



White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre listens as White House national security communications adviser John Kirby speaks during a press briefing at the White House, Thursday, April 4, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

Israeli government.

The leaders' conversation comes as the World Central Kitchen, founded by restaurateur José Andrés to provide immediate food relief to disaster-stricken areas, called for an independent investigation into the Israeli strikes that killed the group's staff members, including an American citizen.

The White House has said the U.S. has no plans to conduct its own investigation even as it called on Israel to do more to prevent the harming of innocent civilians and aid workers as it carries out its operations in Gaza.

Separately, Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters in Brussels that U.S. support would be curtailed if Israel doesn't make significant adjustments to how it's carrying out the war. "If we don't see the changes that we need to see, there will be changes in our policy," he said.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby echoed the call for "tangible" and "concrete" changes to be taken by the Israelis beyond reiterating long stated calls for allowing additional aid to get into Gaza.

"If there's no changes to their policy in their approaches, then there's going to have to be changes to ours," Kirby said. "There are things that need to be done. There are too many civilians being killed."

The demands for Israel to bring the conflict to a swift close were increasing across the political spectrum, with former President Donald Trump, the Republicans' presumptive nominee to face Biden this fall, saying Thursday that Israel was "absolutely losing the PR war" and calling for a resolution to the bloodshed.

"Get it over with and let's get back to peace and stop killing people. And that's a very simple statement," Trump told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt. "They have to get it done. Get it over with and get it over with fast because we have to -- you have to get back to normalcy and peace."

Biden and Netanyahu also discussed Iranian threats against Israel, Kirby said. Earlier this week, Iranian leaders vowed to hit back after an airstrike widely blamed on Israel destroyed Iran's Consulate in Syria, killing

12 people, including two elite Iranian generals. Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said Wednesday the attack "will not remain without answer." Biden also renewed his concerns about Netanyahu's plan to carry out an operation in the southern city of Rafah, where about 1.5 million displaced Palestinians are sheltering, as Israel looks to eliminate Hamas following the militant group's deadly Oct. 7 attack. Vice President Kamala Harris, Blinken and national security adviser Jake Sullivan also joined the call. Still, the Biden administration has proceeded apace with arms transfers and deliveries to Israel, many of which were approved years ago but had only been partially or not at all fulfilled. Just this week, on Monday, the Democratic administration's "Daily List" of munitions transfers included the sale to Israel of more than 1,000 500-pound (225-kilograms) bombs and more than 1,000 1,000-pound (450-kilogram) bombs.

Officials said those transfers had been approved before the publication of the list on Monday — the day Israeli airstrikes hit a World Central

Kitchen aid convoy in Gaza, killing seven of the group's employees — and that they fell below the threshold for new congressional notification. Also, they noted that the bombs are not for delivery to Israel until 2025.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon on Thursday said plans to build a temporary pier off the coast of Gaza to help boost the flow of aid into the territory continue to move forward. Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, said the pier will be on line by the end of the month or early May. Biden announced plans to build the floating pier during his State of the Union address last month.

Ryder said Israel has agreed to provide security on the shore as aid is transferred and distributed, but details are still being worked out.

Israel has acknowledged responsibility for the strikes but said the convoy was not targeted and the workers' deaths were not intentional. The country continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding the killings.

Andrés harshly criticized the Israeli military for the strike, and his organization has paused its work in Gaza.

"The Israeli government needs to stop this indiscriminate killing. It needs to stop restricting humanitarian aid, stop killing civilians and aid workers, and stop using food as a weapon," he wrote on X. "No more innocent lives lost."

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 people hostage.

The Israeli military campaign in Gaza, experts say, is among the deadliest and most destructive in recent history. Within two months, researchers say, the offensive already has wreaked more destruction than the razing of Syria's Aleppo between 2012 and 2016, Ukraine's Mariupol or, proportionally, the Allied bombing of Germany in World War II. It has killed more civilians than the U.S.-led coalition did in its three-year campaign against the Islamic State group. □

Border Patrol must care for migrant children who wait in camps for processing, a judge says

By REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Migrant children who wait in makeshift camps along the U.S.-Mexico border for the Border Patrol to process them are in the agency's custody and are subject to a long-standing court-supervised agreement that set standards for their treatment, a judge ruled.

The issue of when the children are officially in Border Patrol custody is particularly important because of the 1997 court settlement on how migrant children in U.S. government custody must be treated. Those standards include a time limit on how long the children can be held and services such as toilets, sinks and temperature controls. Wednesday's ruling means the Department of Homeland Security must quickly process the children and place them in facilities that are "safe and sanitary."

The border camps have become a flashpoint between immigrant advocates and the federal government. The U.S. has said smugglers send migrants to the camps and argued that the children are not yet in Border Patrol custody because they haven't been



Migrants are taken into custody by officials at the Texas-Mexico border, Jan. 3, 2024, in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Associated Press

arrested. Advocates say the U.S. government has a responsibility for the children and that Border Patrol often directs migrants to the camps, sometimes even driving them there. Children traveling alone must be turned over within 72 hours to the U.S. Health and Human Services Department. That agency generally releases them to family in the United States while an immigration judge

considers asylum. Asylum-seeking families are typically released in the U.S. while their cases wind through courts. "This is a tremendous victory for children at open air detention sites, but it remains a tragedy that a court had to direct the government to do what basic human decency and the law clearly require," Neha Desai, senior director of immigration at the National Center for Youth Law, said

in a statement. "We expect CBP to comply with the court's order swiftly, and we remain committed to holding CBP accountable for meeting the most rudimentary needs of children in their legal custody, including food, shelter, and basic medical care."

The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

U.S. District Judge Dolly

Gee's decision could have far-reaching implications because of the changing face of who is coming to the United States. Decades ago, the typical person attempting to enter the U.S. was an adult male from Mexico seeking work. Now, families with children are increasingly making perilous journeys to the border seeking a new life. Caring for children puts different stresses on federal agencies more historically more geared toward adults.

The legal challenge focuses on two areas in California: one between two border fences in San Diego and another in a remote mountainous region east of San Diego. Migrants who cross the border illegally wait under open skies or sometimes in tents or structures made of tree branches while short on food and water. When the number of migrants was particularly high last year, they waited for several days for Border Patrol agents to arrest and process them.

Gee said there was "significant evidence" that Customs and Border Protection, of which Border Patrol is a part, has physical control over minors at the outdoor locations. □

Federal report finds 68,000 guns were illegally trafficked through unlicensed dealers over 5 years

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
and ALANNA DURKIN RICH-
ER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 68,000 illegally trafficked firearms in the U.S. came through unlicensed dealers who aren't required to perform background checks over a five-year period, according to new data released Thursday by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives.

That represents 54% of the illegally trafficked firearms in the U.S. between 2017 and 2021, Justice Department officials said. The guns

were used in 368 shooting cases, which are harder to investigate because unlicensed dealers aren't required to keep records of their sales that could allow federal agents to trace the weapon back to the original buyer, said ATF Director Steve Dettelbach.

The report ordered by Attorney General Merrick Garland is the first in-depth analysis of firearm trafficking investigations in more than 20 years. It examined more than 9,700 closed ATF firearm trafficking investigations that began between 2017 and 2021.

Firearms trafficking is when

guns are purposely moved into the illegal market for a criminal purpose or possession.

The second-highest share of firearm-trafficking cases investigated by ATF was straw purchases, when someone buys a gun for a person who can't get it legally themselves.

The report also shows that the recipients of trafficked firearms were people who had previously been convicted of a felony in almost 60 percent of the cases in which investigators were able to identify the background of the recipient. Furthermore, trafficked fire-



A security official walks in front of the entrance to the national headquarters of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives on Jan. 23, 2014, in Washington.

Associated Press

arms were used to commit additional crimes in almost

25 percent of the cases, Dettelbach said. □

Small businesses apply for federal loans after Baltimore bridge collapse

By LEA SKENE

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — A federal program offering loans to small businesses hurt by the collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge has received 500 applications, officials said.

The funds, which could start being distributed within about two weeks, are meant to help keep companies afloat as the city's vital port remains closed to most maritime traffic, said Isabella Casillas Guzman, who heads the U.S. Small Business Administration. Guzman visited Baltimore on Thursday to meet with business owners, along with local and state leaders.

Businesses involved in transportation and supply chain logistics will likely suffer most in the short term, she said, but the long-term ripple effects will be widespread.

"It's a full range of impact," she said following a roundtable discussion at an office in Baltimore that was opened in recent days to assist business owners after the deadly collapse.

Baltimore's port handles more cars and farm equipment than any other similar facility in the country, and



Small Business Administration administrator Isabel Guzman, surrounded by Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott, from left, Rep. Kweisi Mfume, D-Md., Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski and Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., speaks during a press conference at the SBA business recovery center, Thursday, April 4, 2024, in Baltimore.

the disaster has created logistical problems up and down the East Coast.

The assistance program offers low-interest loans of up to \$2 million.

The Maryland Senate unanimously approved a bill Wednesday night authorizing the governor to use the state's rainy day fund to help unemployed port employees. That sends the

bill to the Maryland House, which could approve the bill this week.

The legislation also would let the governor use state reserves to help some small businesses avoid layoffs and encourage companies that relocate elsewhere to return to Baltimore once the port reopens.

The Norwegian shipping firm Wallenius Wilhelmsen,

which has a hub in Baltimore, said it estimates its own losses at between \$5 million and \$10 million from the port closure. One of its ships is among several currently stuck in Baltimore's harbor.

The Key Bridge fell March 26 after being struck by the cargo ship Dali, which lost power shortly after leaving Baltimore, bound for Sri Lan-

ka. The ship issued a may-day alert with just enough time for police to stop traffic, but not enough to save a roadwork crew filling potholes on the bridge.

Authorities believe six of the workers plunged to their deaths in the collapse, including two whose bodies were recovered last week. Two others survived. The ship remains stationary, its 21 crew members still aboard.

President Joe Biden is expected to visit the collapse site Friday and meet with relatives of the victims.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden will also receive an operational update from U.S. Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers officials working to reopen Baltimore's port "as soon as humanly possible."

Crews are working to clear the steel wreckage and recover the remaining bodies, something made even more difficult by bad weather this week.

They have opened two temporary channels meant primarily for vessels involved in the cleanup. A third channel for larger vessels is in the works. □

Associated Press

Rudy Giuliani can remain in Florida condo, despite judge's concern with his spending habits



Rudy Giuliani speaks to reporters after Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump spoke at a primary election night party in Nashua, N.H., Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024.

Associated Press

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rudy Giuliani will be allowed to

remain in his Florida condo for now after a New York bankruptcy judge on Thursday declined to rule on a motion filed by his creditors that would've forced him to sell the Palm Beach estate.

At a hearing, Judge Sean Lane acknowledged the "significant" concern that Giuliani was sinking money into the condo that is owed to his numerous creditors, but said he would hold off on compelling a sale of the roughly \$3.5 million property.

Giuliani declared bankruptcy in December after he was ordered to pay

\$148 million to two former Georgia election workers for spreading lies about their role in the 2020 election.

He has agreed to list his Manhattan apartment for roughly \$5 million, but argues he should continue living in the Florida condo, citing the need to record his podcast there and the "prohibitive" cost of finding a new home in New York.

"If the court compels the sale of the Florida condominium, then the debtor will be forced to incur expenses for alternative housing," his lawyers wrote in a March 28 motion. "Surely

the committee does not intend the debtor to join the ranks of the homeless?"

The bankruptcy has brought forth a diverse coalition of creditors who say they are owed money by Giuliani, including a supermarket employee who was thrown in jail for patting him on the back, two elections technology companies that he spread conspiracies about, a woman who says he coerced her into sex, several of his former attorneys, the IRS and Hunter Biden, who claims Giuliani illegally shared his personal data. □

Rescuers in Taiwan search for those missing or stranded after major earthquake kills 10

By JOHNSON LAI and KANIS LEUNG

Associated Press

HUALIEN, Taiwan (AP) —

Rescuers searched Thursday for missing people and worked to reach hundreds stranded when Taiwan's strongest earthquake in 25 years sent boulders and mud tumbling down mountainsides, blocking roads. Ten people died and more than 1,000 were injured.

The powerful quake struck during the morning rush hour a day earlier, sending schoolchildren rushing outdoors and families fleeing their apartments through the windows. The ground floors of some buildings collapsed, leaving them leaning at precarious angles. Though the island is regularly rattled by earthquakes and generally well prepared, authorities did not send out the usual alerts because they were expecting a smaller tremor. Some 200 residents of Hualien County near the epicenter were staying in temporary shelters, and the main road linking the county to the capital, Tai-



Debris surrounds a tilted building a day after a powerful earthquake struck, in Hualien City, eastern Taiwan, Thursday, April 4, 2024.

pei, was still closed Thursday afternoon, but much of Taiwan's day-to-day life returned to normal. Some local rail service to Hualien resumed, and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., one of the world's most important manufacturers of computer chips, restarted most operations,

the Central News Agency reported.

Nearly 1,100 people were injured in the quake. Of the 10 dead, at least four were killed inside Taroko National Park, a tourist attraction famous for canyons and cliffs in mountainous Hualien about 150 kilometers (90 miles) from Taipei. One

person was found dead in a damaged building and another was found in the Ho Ren Quarry. Rescuers also carried out the body of a man, who had severe wounds on his head, from a hiking trail.

Hundreds of people were stranded when rocks and mud blocked the roads

leading to their hotel, campground or work site though most were safe while they awaited rescue. It wasn't clear Thursday if any people were still trapped in buildings.

Liu Zhong-da, a 58-year-old construction worker, and his colleague were on their way to work on a road in the national park and were inside a tunnel when the quake hit. A boulder blocked their exit and they were trapped along with some other people.

"We almost got covered up," Liu said. "No communication could be made (to the outside world)." Liu and his colleague were rescued Thursday afternoon and received a quick medical checkup outside the park.

About 60 workers who had been unable to leave a quarry because of damaged roads were also freed, authorities said. Six workers from another quarry were airlifted out.

Some 700 people remain cut off, the vast majority of them employees and guests at a hotel in the national park. □

Associated Press

Nigeria seeks to try crypto exchange Binance executives over alleged money laundering, tax evasion

By CHINEDU ASADU

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) —

Nigerian authorities asked in court Thursday for cryptocurrency exchange Binance and two of its executives to be tried for alleged money laundering and tax evasion, the first legal step following weeks of a criminal investigation into the trading platform.

Only Tigran Gambaryan, an American citizen and Binance's head of financial crime compliance, attended the court hearing as Nadeem Anjarwalla, the company's regional manager remains at large after fleeing custody in late March.

Nigeria harbors Africa's largest crypto economy in terms of trade volume with

many citizens using crypto to hedge their finances against surging inflation and the declining local currency. Authorities, however, alleged the platform was being used for money laundering and terrorism financing.

In separate charges seen by The Associated Press Thursday at the Federal High Court in the capital, Abuja, Nigeria's anti-corruption agency and the local tax authority accused Binance and the two officials of operating without the required license, unlawfully negotiating foreign exchange rates, tax evasion and concealing the origin of illegal proceeds and revenue of \$35.4 million.

Gambaryan was escorted in and out of the court by

officials from the anti-corruption agency.

Binance couldn't be immediately reached for comment. Since Gambaryan and Anjarwalla were arrested on Feb. 26, their trial has been shrouded with controversy after they accused authorities of illegally detaining them and seizing their passports.

In addition, local media had reported that the Nigerian government demanded the names of citizens trading on the platform.

The Abuja court on Thursday adjourned the formal commencement of the money laundering trial till April 8 after Mark Mordi, Gambaryan's lawyer, argued that his client could not represent Binance in the case without the com-



Tigran Gambaryan, an American citizen and Binance's head of financial crime compliance, right, is escorted as he leaves a court hearing at the federal High Courts, in Abuja, Nigeria, Thursday, April 4, 2024.

Associated Press

pany's permission, which the public prosecutor disagreed with.

"There is proof that the second defendant (Gambaryan) is a representative

of the first defendant in this country (Binance)," Ekene Iheanacho, a lawyer representing Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission said. □

U.N. human rights body backs measures against Myanmar and investigations in Iran

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N.'s leading human rights body agreed Thursday to measures aimed at putting pressure on Myanmar and Iran, whose governments have been accused of using violence against their own people.

The Human Rights Council, made up of 47 member countries, backed by consensus a measure that calls on governments to avoid exporting or selling jet fuel to Myanmar if they believe its ruling military junta might use the fuel to violate human rights in the war-racked southeast Asian country. It also urged a halt to the illegal transfer of weapons, munitions and other military equipment to Myanmar. An independent expert commissioned by the council warned last month that Myanmar's military government is escalating violence against civilians as it faces more setbacks on the battlefield against pro-democracy and ethnic armed groups. The military seized power more than three years ago from the elected govern-



Protesters run after police shot warning shots and used water cannon to disperse them during a protest in Mandalay, Myanmar on Feb. 9, 2021.

ment of Aung San Suu Kyi, triggering widespread non-violent opposition that was met with deadly force. The repression gave birth to armed resistance and embroiled the country in a civil war. Advocacy group Amnesty International has repeatedly called out shipments of fuel to Myanmar and in January pointed to shipping data that pointed to efforts to avoid sanctions in the aviation fuel supply

chain. It said at least seven shipments of the fuel went to Myanmar last year, with direct links to a storage unit in Vietnam. Vietnam, which currently holds one of the seats in the council, did not stand in the way of the council's consensus.

"This is an important message from the U.N.'s main human rights body that business as usual is not acceptable when supplying jet fuel to those who use

airstrikes to commit war crimes," said Iniyan Ilango, Amnesty's representative to the U.N. in Geneva.

He said it was "a good start" but the U.N. Security Council should impose a suspension of the direct and indirect shipments of aviation fuel to Myanmar, saying such a move would have an important impact on the ground because it would help prevent the military from continuing its

Associated Press

airstrikes, "many of which have constituted war crimes."

The council is wrapping up its first session of the year, which began on Feb. 26, with action on over 40 resolutions on issues as diverse as the rights of the child; the environment and human rights; genocide prevention; and rights situations in council like Sudan, Belarus and North Korea.

One resolution expected to come up in Friday's session finale calls on countries to stop sending weapons to Israel amid its military campaign in Gaza that has led to the killings of nearly 33,000 Palestinians in response to the murderous attacks in Israel by armed militants on Oct. 7.

In other action, the council voted 24-8, with 15 abstentions, to adopt a resolution to extend by a year investigations of human rights in Iran by two separate teams one led by a "special rapporteur" looking into the overall rights situation, and another by a "fact-finding mission" focusing on rights violations related to protests since September 2022. □

Guyana condemns Venezuela for signing into law a referendum approving annexation of disputed region

By BERT WILKINSON

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Venezuelan Presi-

dent Nicolás Maduro's move to sign into law the results of a recent referendum laying claim to two-

thirds of Guyana triggered fierce condemnation Thursday from the neighboring South American country's government.

The text of the law was not immediately made public. Even so, Guyana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs vowed not to yield any land to Venezuela and called the move targeting Guyana's western Essequibo region an "egregious violation of the most fundamental principles of international law." In early December, Maduro held a referendum to claim sovereignty over the oil- and mineral-rich region that represents two-thirds of Guyana, arguing it was stolen when the border was drawn more than a century ago. On Wednes-

day, Maduro held a signing ceremony recalling the referendum as a "stellar and historic moment."

"The decision of December 3, has now become the Law of the Republic, to form part of the legal structure of the internal political and institutional movement of our country," Maduro tweeted on Wednesday. "The decision made by the Venezuelans in the consultative referendum will be fulfilled in all its parts, and with this Law, we will continue the defense of Venezuela on international stages."

Guyana's government responded sharply hours later: "If Venezuela wants to contest title to the territory in question, the proper

forum is the International Court of Justice."

It's not clear how Venezuelan authorities intend to implement the idea of exercising jurisdiction over Essequibo.

Maduro said that until the dispute is resolved, the appointment of an Essequibo governor will remain in his hands and that the National Assembly will exercise legislative powers of the territory. He did not provide further details.

Guyana and Venezuela have been feuding over the region for decades, with tensions deepening after vast oil deposits were found near Guyana's coast in 2015 in offshore areas intersecting the disputed territory. □



A boy drives a motorcycle in front of a mural of the Venezuelan map with the Essequibo territory included in the 23 de Enero neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, Dec. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of

Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.



Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly

put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)

(Oranjestad)— In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were ad-

vised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea. Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly be-

cause of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based



on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits

for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. ☐

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris



The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

Recently, Ms. Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at their home away from home.

The honorees:

Christina Whesper and Alexandra Whesper as Goodwill Ambassadors from New Jersey
Gilbert Whesper as Emerald Ambassador from New Jersey

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years together with the members of Caribbean Palm Village

Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were:
Beautiful beaches, beautiful weather and the friendliness of the people.□



National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to

sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological

variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamana hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.



Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site

#198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas.□

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Paradise Beach Villas!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. These honorees were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors
Mr. Charles Tencza & Mrs. Margaret Tencza from New York, United

States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Paradise Beach Villas bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Location of the hotel is perfect.
- Aruba's wonderful intelligent people.
- Aruba's sun, sand and sea.
- Aruba's fabulous restaurants.
- Aruba's very safe.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was con-

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

structed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his

father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve

out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short lifespan: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & goldminer-anch.com.

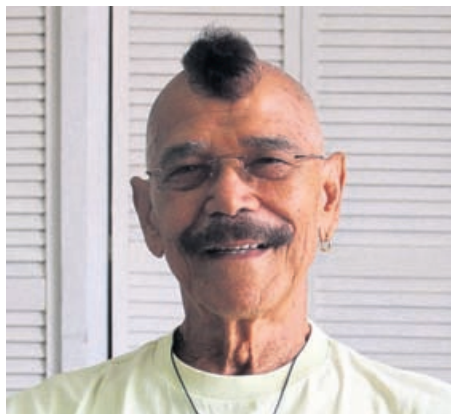
A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work.



It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according

to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down

pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □

Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

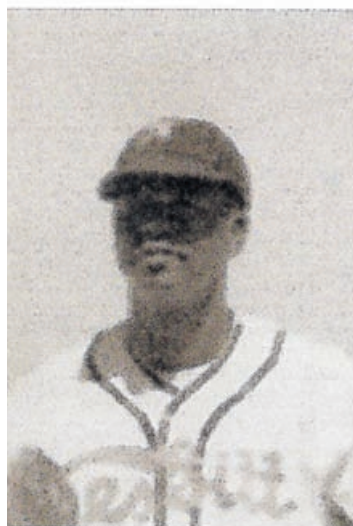
ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.

Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.

Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a doubleheader of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was



the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team



sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers". Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Se-

ries that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

Written by Mr. Clyde Harms

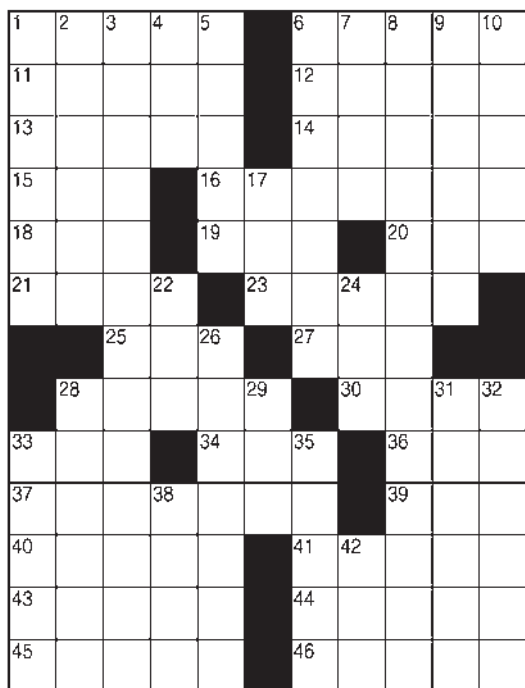
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Annex
- 1 Lose it
- 6 Abodes girl, often
- 11 Curaçao's neighbor
- 12 In the area
- 13 Bury
- 14 September sign
- 15 Letter after sigma
- 16 Small loud-speaker
- 18 Letter after zeta
- 19 Sermon topic
- 20 One or more
- 21 Depend
- 23 Stately
- 25 Dandy
- 27 Little piggy
- 28 Celtic priest
- 30 Colony members
- 33 Floral garland
- 34 Astronaut Grissom
- 36 Important age
- 37 Ace
- 39 Impair
- 40 Camp craft
- 41 Cake cover
- DOWN**
- 1 Spat
- 2 Highly decorative
- 3 Shared acquaintances
- 4 Presidential
- 5 Pub pastime
- 6 Poor person
- 7 Theater award
- 8 The Hatfields and the McCoys, e.g.
- 9 Playwright O'Neill
- 10 Yarn
- 17 Triumph
- 22 "Hey there!"
- 24 Frilly wrap
- 26 Sties org.
- 28 Reply to "Gracias"
- 29 Twosome
- 31 Stupor
- 32 Privates' bosses
- 33 Union chapter
- 35 Police trap
- 38 Flue filth
- 42 Langley org.



Yesterday's answer



4-5

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-5 CRYPTOQUOTE

D B N P M G U Y D P I Y W N F Z P K Y
M O M U M G N , B N V Y N F P ' K
L N G Y I N M C Z P A . K B N O M U M G N
L N G Y I N F M G Z Q G E F . — K E Q C Z F B
O Q Y W N Q L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: INFORMATION IS LIGHT. INFORMATION, IN ITSELF, ABOUT ANYTHING, IS LIGHT. — TOM STOPPARD

Cruise ship Schedule: Apr 2 - Apr 07 2024

TUE	02	OOSTERDAM	08.00	17.00	B
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	C
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	09.00	22.00	I
WED	03	EURODAM	07.00	16.00	B
		ODYSSEY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	07.00	15.00	I
THUS	04	NORWEGIAN SKY	08.00	20.00	C
SAT	06	SEABOURN OVATION	08.00	23.00	B
		CELEBRITY BEYOND	16.00	****	C
SUN	07	CELEBRITY BEYOND - Dept.	****	18.00	C

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Electrical power
Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to



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Giancarlo Esposito always had leading man credentials. 'Parish' just makes it official

By **GARY GERARD HAMILTON**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Giancarlo Esposito has long been lauded as a charismatic, scene-stealing thespian and commander of roles who's worthy of leading man stature. But it might be surprising that for first the time, it's actually official.

"I say, 'Ask for what you want.' So, I wanted this badly," said the star of "Parish," who's also an executive producer of the new crime drama. "When you ask for what you want, normally you will get it if you believe and if you can endure. So, almost eight years is a long time to endure."

That's how long it took to bring the series into fruition after being shopped and bounced around before landing at AMC. "Parish," based on the BBC One series "The Driver," follows Gracian "Gray" Parish, a New Orleans-based former getaway driver-turned successful law-abiding taxi entrepreneur whose life unravels after his son's murder. Facing financial hardships, he entangles himself with a local Zimbabwe gang that deals in human trafficking and ending that working relationship won't be easy. The 65-year-old Esposito, a



Actor Giancarlo Esposito poses for a portrait in New York on March 26, 2024, to promote his series "Parish."
Associated Press

six-decade acting veteran who was first introduced to wide audiences through his work in Spike Lee Joints, is most recognized for his villainous, sinister roles like the iconic drug kingpin Gustavo Fring from "Breaking Bad" and its spinoff, "Better Call Saul." More recently, he's appeared in popular series like "The Mandalorian," "Godfather of Harlem," "The Boys," "Kaleidoscope" and "The Gentlemen."

Despite how long it's taken for him to reach the top

of the call sheet, Esposito doesn't fixate on whether he receives the professional respect many believe he's owed.

"I've let go of wanting to have more respect than is due me, more respect than what comes to me. People come up to me and they say, 'You're a highly underrated actor.' So, I never know when that's said to me if I should feel awful or feel great," said the five-time Emmy nominated actor four for supporting actor and one for guest actor.

"It's an honor to have my own show. In this ecosystem of Hollywood, there's more that I have to do... I'm ready to bust out on a new journey, and 'Parish' is the beginning of that."

The AP spoke with Esposito about leading his own series, roles he has yet to play and if there's anything left to explore with Gus Fring. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How do you relate to Gray Parish?

Esposito: I was a man up against the wall 10, 15

years ago completely. Went bankrupt. Lost my house. Divorced, you know, wound up living in a goat barn for a while... Didn't know if I'd ever get my career back on track. Just didn't have any sense of hope that's where Gray is until a moment where I thought of some desperate ways to have my family survive.

To say that my life has been rosy and it's always great which is sometimes what people want to hear from an actor of my stature that's not my truth. And so, to live my organic truth is important to me.

AP: In "Parish," you're finally the star and the lead. Was that a different responsibility or any pressure?

Esposito: It is a very, very daunting responsibility if you see it that way, right? So, I see this project as something that so many people invested... in my journey to become a leader. And so, there's a lot of pressure behind it. I realized, 'Oh, it's not just about me.' Sure, the part of my ego that goes, "Wow, I'm No. 1 on the call sheet it's about time! Boy, do I love it." There's an enjoyment to it, and there's a wonder to it because I put so much of myself into this story. □

Bill Clinton reflects on post-White House years in the upcoming memoir 'Citizen'



This cover image released by Alfred A. Knopf shows "Citizen: My Life After the White House" by former President Bill Clinton.

Associated Press

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Bill Clinton has a memoir coming out this fall about his years since leaving public office in 2001. "Citizen: My Life After the White House" will cover everything from the presidential campaigns of his wife, Hillary Clinton, to his views on events ranging from the Jan. 6 insurrection to the Iraq War.

Alfred A. Knopf, which published Clinton's million-selling presidential memoir "My Life," will release the new book Nov. 19.

"I knew as I entered this new chapter of my life that I'd keep score the way I always have: Are people better off when you quit than when you started? Do our children have a brighter future? Are we coming together instead of falling apart?" Clinton said in a statement Thursday.

"'Citizen' is the story of my 23-plus years since leaving the White House, told largely through the stories of other people who changed my life as I tried to help change theirs, of those who supported me, including those I loved and

lost, and of the mistakes I made along the way," he said.

Knopf is calling the book "remarkably candid, and richly detailed," offering "fascinating insight into Clinton's life both personal and political."

Over the past two decades, Clinton has worked on numerous charitable causes, including AIDS treatment and relief for Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. Besides "My Life," his books have included the policy tract "Working" and a pair of bestselling thrillers co-authored by James Patter-

son: "The President Is Missing" and "The President's Daughter."

He has also been involved in various controversies, among them questions over the funding for Haiti's rebuilding efforts and his association with the late financier Jeffrey Epstein (Clinton, who flew several times on Epstein's private jet, has denied any awareness that Epstein was involved in sex trafficking). In 2018, the #MeToo movement revived talk of Clinton's affair with then-White House intern Monica Lewinsky. □

Colt Keith's RBI double caps comeback 6-3 win for perfect Tigers against winless Mets

By JERRY BEACH
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Colt Keith hit an RBI double in the 11th inning Thursday, sparking the Detroit Tigers to a 6-3 comeback win that extended their best start since 2015 and sent the New York Mets to their worst start since 2005.

Gio Urshela added a two-out, two-run single for the Tigers (5-0), who are the last unbeaten team in baseball and will seek to match the 2015 team's 6-0 start in the second game of Thursday's doubleheader.

"We feel good about where we're at," said Tigers pitcher Casey Mize, who started the opener in his first professional game since Apr. 14, 2022. "We feel good about our team. We have for a few weeks going back into spring training. Obviously, there's things we need to improve upon and build upon. But we've had a really good start."

The Mets' Jose Butto was scheduled to start the second game against fellow right-hander Matt Manning. Both pitchers were re-



Detroit Tigers' Matt Vierling (8) and Colt Keith (33) celebrate after scoring against the New York Mets in the 11th inning in the first baseball game of a doubleheader, Thursday, April 4, 2024, in New York.

called earlier Thursday for the doubleheader, which was necessitated by rain-outs Tuesday and Wednesday night.

The Mets (0-5) haven't opened 0-6 since 1963 their second season.

"Some teams go on a losing skid in the middle of the

year," Mets starter Adrian Houser said, "Right now we're just starting off on the wrong foot. We're not playing terrible. There's some things we can do better, but it's part of baseball. It's part of the journey. It's going to be a roller coaster." Shelby Miller (2-0) tossed

two scoreless innings for the Tigers, who earned three one-run wins over the Chicago White Sox before posting back-to-back extra-inning wins over the Mets.

Michael Tonkin (0-2) took the loss for the second straight game for New York.

Associated Press

The Mets took a 3-0 lead via Francisco Alvarez's two-run double in the third and Brett Baty's run-scoring single in the fifth. New York was 2-for-28 with two walks with runners on base in between Tyrone Taylor's RBI single on Sunday and Alvarez's double.

"I thought we had better at-bats, especially early in the game," Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said. "We created some traffic."

Andy Ibanez lofted a pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the sixth inning for the Tigers before Urshela scored on a wild pitch in the seventh and Riley Greene homered in the eighth.

Mize, who had Tommy John surgery and back surgery in 2022, gave up three runs in 4 1/3 innings.

"Felt a lot out there just excitement and just pride and joy," Mize said. "The box score wasn't great, but obviously just super proud of the work I put in and the people who helped me get back and was super happy to be back and competing in the big leagues with my team." □

LeBron James says popularity of women's basketball is due to familiar stars

By NOAH TRISTER
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — LeBron James figures there's at least one obvious explanation for the surging popularity of the NCAA women's basketball tournament.

Recognizable stars.

"I don't think there's much difference between the men's and women's game when it comes to college basketball. I think the popularity comes in is the icons that they have in the women's game," James said after his Los Angeles Lakers beat Washington on Wednesday night. "You look at Angel Reese, you look at JuJu (Watkins), you look at Caitlin Clark, you look at Paige (Bueckers), you look at the young girl that's in Iowa State,

the freshman there (Audi Crooks), you look at (Cameron) Brink, I believe her last name is, at Stanford. And that's just to name a few the freshman that's at Notre Dame (Hannah Hidalgo)."

Although James mentioned well-known men's players like Purdue's Zach Edey and Tennessee's Dalton Knecht, he noted that the transfer portal and early NBA draft departures makes it harder for players to become familiar to fans. It's different on the women's side.

"You're able to build, like a real iconic legacy at a program," James said. "That's what we all love about it." Clark was honored to hear James support the women's tournament.

"He knows what he's talking about. He pays attention. He supports the game," she said on Thursday at media availability. "He doesn't just talk about it. Like, he really shows up and supports. I think that's the coolest thing; one of the greatest players of all time really helping support and grow women's basketball. Like, that's exactly what we need."

Clark will be playing her final collegiate games in the same arena that James got his NBA start.

"He's somebody I've always idolized," Clark said. "It's cool to be in Cleveland and play here, a place where his career started, and he was able to do so many amazing things."

When Clark and Iowa beat




LSU guard Aneesah Morrow (24) and forward Angel Reese (10) line up to greet Rice players and coaches after defeating them in a first-round college basketball game in the women's NCAA Tournament in Baton Rouge, La., Friday, March 22, 2024.

Associated Press


Reese and LSU in the regional final Monday night, it was the most-watched women's college basketball game on record. It averaged 12.3 million view-

ers on ESPN, according to Nielsen, outdrawing all but one of the five games in last year's NBA Finals, along with the final game of last year's World Series. □



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MASTERS '24: Competing tours converge on Augusta National chasing the same prize

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Jon Rahm went from wearing a Masters green jacket in April to a LIV Golf black letterman's jacket in December.

Those two images — one in Butler Cabin with Scottie Scheffler, the other in a New York studio with Greg Norman — illustrate the great divide in golf that has scattered the sport's biggest stars across two tours. The rival circuits are not pitted against each other, and therein lies the problem facing golf: They're never together.

That's what makes the Masters feel bigger than ever. It already is the most anticipated tournament of any year because of Augusta National and all the history and memories it has created over 90 years. One year after the PGA Tour and LIV first mixed at the Masters, it now feels like a reunion long overdue.

"The first time there was that split, this war between the tours," Xander Schauffele said. "It brought a lot of eyeballs because of that sort of LIV versus the PGA Tour kind of thing. ... I think the tone might be different from a fan's perspective."

"But I think it will still be great viewing," he said. "One, it's the Masters. And two, I think everybody is just probably excited to see everyone compete again." When the first tee shot in the 88th Masters Tournament is struck on April 11, it will be the first time in 263 days that all the world's best players will be chasing the same prize.

Rahm and Scheffler. Brooks Koepka and Rory McIlroy. Patrick Reed and Jordan Spieth. Even aging stars Phil



Jon Rahm, of Spain, celebrates winning the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday, April 9, 2023, in Augusta, Ga.

Mickelson and Tiger Woods. Savor these moments, because there doesn't seem to be peace in the immediate future.

The PGA Tour invited the Saudi backers of LIV Golf to the table in a stunning agreement last June to become commercial partners. But then Congress got involved. The Justice Department had antitrust concerns. The tour began receiving offers from U.S. private equity groups. As the tour narrowed its list of suitors, the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia flexed its financial muscle by luring away Rahm with an offer believed to be in the neighborhood of the tour's entire prize fund for the year.

The PGA Tour now has a \$3 billion investment from a consortium of billionaire sports owners in the U.S., all while still negotiating with the Saudis. A month before the Masters, Woods, Spieth

and the rest of the player-directors on the PGA Tour board met for the first time with Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the PIF governor who refers to LIV as his "baby."

LIV doesn't appear to be going anywhere, and there is no consensus on how to bring LIV players back into the fold, if they even want to come back.

"We can't keep going this direction," Bryson DeChambeau said. "It's great to have the majors where we all come together, but we want to be competing at least I want to be competing every week with all of the best players in the world." The closest the two tours have been to each other was early February about 300 miles (480 kilometers) separated the Phoenix Open from LIV Golf Las Vegas. Otherwise, they feel galaxies apart.

For now, the boundaries only vanish at the four majors. That starts with the

Masters.

"That's what is making this Masters and many other majors so much fun — not only for me and for players, but for spectators is for all of us to be able to play together again and showcase what we're capable of," Rahm said.

The show starts with Scheffler, the undisputed No. 1 in the world even with LIV players plunging in the ranking because their league does not get points. His tee-to-green statistics are among the best since the peak years of Woods. And then Scheffler got the putter going and he won against two of the strongest fields in consecutive weeks at the Arnold Palmer Invitational and The Players Championship. His most recent start was a runner-up finish in the Houston Open. Rahm has been watching that's about all he can do. And the Masters provides an arena for him to have a

say about that.

"I'm fully aware of where Scottie is," Rahm said. "I don't need to be playing next to him to know what's going on. Anytime you're doing the history he's been able to do, it's quite impressive."

The only history that matters to McIlroy is joining the most exclusive club in golf. Only five players have won the four professional majors dating to the inception of the Masters in 1934. Woods was the most recent in 2000, and he got it done at the British Open on his first try.

Of the other four players with the career Grand Slam, no one waited longer than three years to get the last leg. McIlroy is going on his 10th year, and it's been that long 10 years since he won any major championship.

"I'm under no illusion that the clock is ticking and it has been 10 years since I've won one of them," McIlroy said. "I just need to keep putting myself in those positions, and sooner or later it's going to happen."

This is his 16th Masters. Only one player Sergio Garcia has played the Masters more often before finally winning. Garcia won his green jacket in his 19th attempt. McIlroy won in Dubai at the start of the year, though his PGA Tour performance has been mediocre by his standards. He has been at the forefront of this disruption in golf, going from one of LIV's loudest critics to resigning from the PGA Tour board and now pushing as hard as anyone for golf to find harmony, even if that means bringing back LIV players without penalty. □